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TO RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 2624
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RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 9833
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 4173
RUEHKI/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY 3744
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 7986
RUFHMB/USMISSION USVIENNA PRIORITY 3168
RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 6749
RUWRNLB/HQ SPACE CMD PETERSON AFB CD PRIORITY
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ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
XMT USOFFICE KOROR
USOFFICE KOLONIA
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GENEVA PASS TO: ACDA, D&S, START, CD, SCC; FOR MBFR

E.O. 12356: NA
TAGS: PARM PRESS COVERAGE
SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 11, 1988 ROUND-UP OF ARMS
CONTROL-RELATED ARTICLES

1. THE WASHINGTON POST: "SHULTZ INF LETTER SOOTHES 2
SENATORS ANGRERS 3RD," BY R. JEFFREY SMITH.

BEGIN EXCERPT: AN ATTEMPT BY SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE P.
SHULTZ TO SETTLE A BITTER LEGAL DISPUTE OVER THE
U.S.-SOVIET TREATY ELIMINATING INF WON A POSITIVE RESPONSE
YESTERDAY FROM TWO KEY SENATE DEMOCRATS, BUT ANGERED A
THIRD. SENATE MAJORITY LEADER ROBERT C. BYRD (D-W.VA.)
AND ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAM NUNN (D-GA.)
SAID A SHULTZ LETTER TUESDAY PROVIDED "IMPORTANT
ASSURANCES" EASING THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT THE
ADMINISTRATION'S CLAIM THAT SENATE TESTIMONY DURING TREATY
RATIFICATION HEARINGS MAY NOT BE LEGALLY BINDING. BUT
SEN. JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR. (DEL.), SECOND RANKING DEMOCRAT
ON THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, STRONGLY ATTACKED
SHULTZ'S LETTER AND RENEWED HIS PLEDGE TO TRY BLOCKING INF
TREATY IMPLEMENTATION UNLESS THE ADMINISTRATION MORE FULLY
REPUDIATES ITS CLAIM THAT EXECUTIVE BRANCH TESTIMONY MAY
NOT BE LEGALLY BINDING. BIDEN SAID "THE LETTER FAILS TO

ADDRESS THE ESSENTIAL ISSUE" OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S

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Sen Biden
SFRC

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INSISTENCE THAT SINCE 1985 IT CAN ADOPT, WITHOUT SENATE APPROVAL, A TREATY INTERPRETATION DIFFERENT FROM THAT PRESENTED BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIALS. END EXCERPT.

2. THE WASHINGTON POST: "INF DEBATE TURNS INTO PARTISAN POWER STRUGGLE," BY HELEN DEWAR.

BEGIN EXCERPT: THE STRUGGLE OF SENATE DEMOCRATS AND THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION FOR THE LAST WORD IN TREATY-MAKING HAS UNEXPECTEDLY WIDENED THE DEBATE OVER THE NEW U.S.-SOVIET NUCLEAR ARMS ACCORD INTO CONTENTIOUS CONFRONTATION THAT IS SENDING TREMORS THROUGH BOTH PARTIES. THE TUSSELE HAS CAUSED CLEAVAGES WITHIN DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN RANKS AND CAUGHT THE ADMINISTRATION IN A DIFFICULT SQUEEZE, ATTEMPTING TO PLACATE POWERFUL DEMOCRATIC LEADERS WITHOUT OFFENDING ITS MOST LOYAL CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN ADHERENTS. SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAM NUNN (D-GA.) HAS THRUST HIMSELF ONCE AGAIN TO THE FOREFRONT OF ARMS-CONTROL MANEUVERING, LEAVING THE ADMINISTRATION AND DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY ON THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN DISARRAY. THE CONTROVERSY RAISES ANEW A POSSIBLE OUTPOURING OF AMENDMENTS, RESERVATIONS AND OTHER CONDITIONS THAT COULD DELAY AND COMPLICATE SENATE APPROVAL OF TREATY TO ELIMINATE INF, SOME SENATORS WARN. A PROLONGED TREATY DEBATE COULD CUT INTO OTHER SENATE BUSINESS, HURTING THE DEMOCRATIC-CONTROLLED CONGRESS' HOPES OF SHOWING VOTERS IN THIS FALL'S ELECTIONS WHAT A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT WOULD GIVE THE COUNTRY. REPUBLICANS ARE ANGRY WITH ADMINISTRATION OVER ITS MOVES TO COMPROMISE WITH THE DEMOCRATS; SOME SUGGEST THE ADMINISTRATION MAY BE SORRY THE NEXT TIME IT COUNTS ON THEM TO "FALL ON SOUR SWORDS" FOR THE WHITE HOUSE ON THE SENATE FLOOR. END EXCERPT. SHULTZ

END OF MESSAGE

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